

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Martin Rex, et al. A3
U.S. Serial No.: 10/527,573
International Application No.: PCT/EP2003/010268
International Filing Date: September 16, 2003
For: DEVICE FOR PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS DURING A
FRONTAL IMPACT WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE
Date: March 31, 2005

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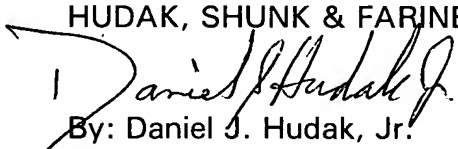
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Sir:

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, PTO FORM-1449s, AND TEN FOREIGN CITED REFERENCES** were mailed to the Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, with sufficient first-class postage, no special handling, on March 31, 2005, before 5:00 PM, thereby ensuring that such document(s) will be in the hands of the U.S. Postal Service by the close of business this day.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney Docket No.: FMW-BX-PCT-US
Enclosures: Return Postcard
Certificate of Mailing
Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449
Copies of Ten Foreign References

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This invention relates to a protective device used in a motor vehicle having a front hood, which covers the front of the vehicle, leads up to the front windshield, is rotatably coupled via a hinge system to the body of the front of the vehicle on both sides of the vehicle. According to the state of the art, the inventive protection device consists of a hinge support, which is provided for indirectly coupling the hinge system to the vehicle body and which is mounted in a raisable manner on the body of the front of the vehicle. The protective device also consists of an energy-storing implement, which acts upon the hinge support while being provided in the form of a spring storage system, and consists of a sensor-controlled retaining device for actively engaging with the hinge support so that, in the normal state, the hinge support is held down and, during a collision, can be released by sensor

actuation in order to execute a limited raising movement. The aim of the invention is to prevent, in particular, diversions of force when the protective device is raised.

To this end, the invention device is designed in such a manner that a guide base plate, which is linearly guided in both directions inside a housing, is provided in the form of a raising plate for the hinge support. The hinge support is eccentrically coupled to this guide base plate in a tilting manner by means of a shaft and is actively engaged with the spring storage system and with the sensor-actuated retaining device.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99, applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, required copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application:

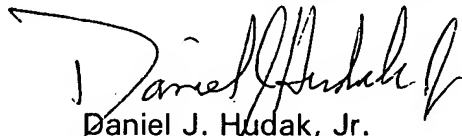
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS		
PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
27 11 338	September 28, 1978	DE
27 11 339	September 28, 1978	DE
27 37 876	March 8, 1979	DE
28 14 107	October 4, 1979	DE
28 41 315	April 10, 1980	DE
197 12 961	October 1, 1998	DE
101 41 628	March 28, 2002	DE
101 08 880	September 5, 2002	DE
1 238 893	September 11, 2002	EP
1 293 400	March 19, 2003	EP

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) only the foreign and non-patent documents are required for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of its materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)			Atty. Docket No.: FMW-BX-PCT-US Applicant: Martin Rex, et al. Filing Date:		Serial No.: 10/527,573 Group:		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing date if appropriate
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
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	AJ						
	AK						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
	AL	27 11 338	September 28, 1978	DE			
	AM	27 11 339	September 28, 1978	DE			
	AN	27 37 876	March 8, 1979	DE			
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	AP	28 41 315	April 10, 1980	DE			
OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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